

# NWIFCA Quarterly Meeting

14<sup>th</sup> March 2019: 11.00 a.m.

AGENDA

ITEM NO.

12

## SUMMARY REPORT - TECHNICAL, SCIENCE AND BYELAW SUB-COMMITTEE 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019

### 1. Science Summary Report (Agenda Item 5)

The report covered:

- a) Marine Protected Areas in the NWIFCA District
- b) NWIFCA Research Projects
- c) Development of Subtidal Survey aboard North Western Protector
- d) National IFCA TAG Conference
- e) Cefas Stock Assessment Workshop
- f) EMFF Workshop
- g) Recreational Anglers Engagement
- h) North West Marine Plan - MMO
- i) Cockles
- j) Mussels
- k) Solway Firth Partnership Annual Conference and Working Group
- l) Staff Appraisals.

### 2. Cockle and Mussel Permit Byelaw 2019 (Agenda Item 6):

A further version of the byelaw had been produced taking into account members' comments. Areas discussed included the proposed commercial areas, permitted MLS and waiting list for permits.

Members agreed a further version of the byelaw be prepared taking into account members' comments, the byelaw to be made at the March quarterly meeting subject to legal advice received.

It was further agreed that the issue of inclusion of buyers in the byelaw should be an item for discussion at the next TSB committee meeting.

### 3. NWIFCA Potting Permit Byelaw 2019 (Agenda Item 7):

Members were provided with the latest version of the draft byelaw for consideration. Industry have been consulted on the proposed measures. Charging for permits for both commercial and recreational potting was considered. Legal advice on the byelaw will be requested.

Members agreed that paragraph 47(e) of the Flexible Permit Conditions (vessel length and/or engine capacity restrictions) should be removed and a further draft of the byelaw to be produced for discussion at the next TSB Committee meeting, taking account of members' comments, with a view to making the byelaw at the June meeting of the Authority.

### 4. District Whelk Fisheries (Agenda Item 8).

Proposed management measures of whelk fisheries include increase in MLS to 75mm, restricting the number of permits issued to those with track record and under 10s with no track record in the north of the district, restricting vessel length to 15m across the whole district and limiting pots to 1,000 per vessel and 300 for u10m vessels with no track record in the north of the district.

It was agreed to consult industry on the proposals and to bring back to TSB next meeting. Landings data required under a permit to pot for whelks would assist the NWIFCA in gathering comprehensive fishing data to inform evolving management of the fisheries.

5. **Potential Razor Clam Research Proposal with Industry (Agenda Item 9).** Members were updated on developments in a collaborative approach to razor clam research. The Shellfish Centre at Bangor University has EMFF funding available for projects which must benefit Welsh companies but the research does not have to be conducted in Welsh Waters. Welsh company Deepdock has expressed an interest in working with Bangor University and NWIFCA in carrying out the research in English waters.

Members approved the development of the research proposal, an application to MMO for dispensation to use electro-dredge and a derogation to Deepdock against the NWIFCA Dredge Byelaw for the project.

6. **MMO Report on Byelaw Making (Agenda Item 10).** The overall aim of the MMO review of byelaw making guidance is to get byelaws made more quickly and efficiently in a more predictable way. There are three principles to the MMO review. Members considered the 8 proposed outcomes and it was suggested it may be appropriate to raise concerns over the review with either the Minister or Association of IFCA's.

Members agreed the CE seek the views and ideas of other IFCA Chief Officers on the proposals in the review.

7. **Amendments to Flexible Permit Conditions (Agenda Item 11):** The CE outlined the background to flexible permitting conditions. The November TSB Committee meeting agreed that a written procedure for reviewing flexible permitting conditions be produced. Advice on this process has been sought from the Authority's lawyer and written confirmation of his verbal advice is awaited.

Members agreed consideration be given to any further work required to clarify the process for amending flexible permit condition.

8. **Landing Obligations (Agenda Item 12).** The landing obligation is an EU regulation which requires the fishing industry to land undersized quota species from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019. The Chairman outlined the implications to the fishing industry of these landing obligations. A meeting was held with industry in Whitehaven in November and a further meeting is planned for Fleetwood. MMO is working closely with the industry on this and looking at the potential issues it will face.

**Clerk**  
**26<sup>th</sup> February 2019**